Most Klamath live in one or another of the several towns and settlements on the reservation, or else they have settled elsewhere, in Portland, Salem, Eugene, in California, in Alaska, in the Midwest, or along the Atlantic seaboard. In 1955 the Tribe had 2118 members, and of these 40 percent lived away from the reservation (Stern & Swanson 1960). Partly because of the recent progress of the termination of federal supervision of the reservation, by this date the percentage of members residing off the reservation has probably increased. In fact, for years there have been numerous "tribal members" with no experience whatsoever of reservation life.

Throughout the years of White contact inter-marriage and inter-breeding have been frequent. Today, more than 70 percent of the Tribe's members are, genetically, less than one-half "Indian," and less than one sixth are "full-bloods." Many are indistinguishable in appearance from their White neighbors, as most are not easily distinguished in dress and language.

The isolation of the early reservation period was soon removed by the influx of White settlers, who at first took up farms and started towns near the fringes of the reservation. Through inter-marriage and through the consequences of allotment of land to individual Klamath, many Whites were soon residing within the reservation's boundaries, either on the lands of a spouse, or on land bought or leased from tribal members. Another source of change were the ever present efforts of Agency officials to make over aboriginal ways, and later, the rapid growth of the lumber industry and the development of full fledged frontier communities were also important sources of acculturative influences. In quick succession the Klamath experienced a period of armed conflict (the Modoc War of 1872-73), a religious revivalistic movement such as that which swept the plains area, extensive governmental planning and intervention, the allotment of land in severalty, and a growing participation in the cash economy. Because aboriginal Klamath values had stressed achieved status for those who worked to accumulate wealth and property, for some Klamath the early period of contact provided increased opportunities, and there was a group of men who for a time were effective entrepreneurs. It was through such personal efforts and through the "easy money" had from private sales or the leasing of agricultural lands, from pro rata shares of boundary settlements, and from per capita payments for sales of tribal timber that the Klamath made the transition to a money economy.

The participation in and contribution of the Klamath to the economy of the region is a significant point of interchange between Klamath and White, and one with many ramifications. In considerable measure, the local timber industry prospers or slumps, depending on the allotted cut in the tribal forest. Similarly, local merchants are somewhat dependent upon the assured income of tribal members, as they are upon the purchases of mill workers, fallers, and cat-skinners. The major town on the reservation, Chiloquin, obtains the largest share of its revenue from sales at a municipally owned beer-hall and from the fines and forfeited bails paid by visitors to the city jail, both of which establishments are patronized largely by Klamath.

In other aspects of community life the participation of Klamath is perhaps best characterized as that of passive spectators. Many Klamath have come to have a sense of being aliens in the heterogeneous local culture, although there is a small assimilated minority.

Thus Klamath may interact as equals in card rooms and pool hall, and are met with a stereotyped "friendliness" in interactions in stores and on the street. However, the great majority live in intimate interdependence separate from the main currents of White social life. White ethnic exclusiveness is reflected